

# An historical essay on the rise and progress of the small-pox. By William Clinch, M.D.

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# Historical Essay

ON THE

RISE and PROGRESS

OF THE

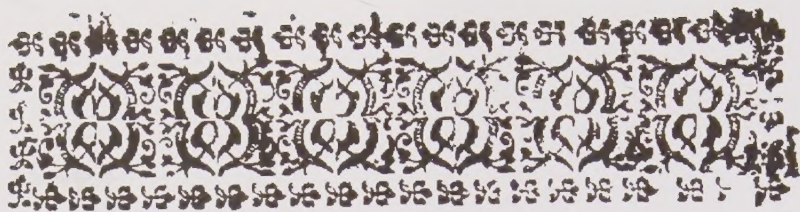
S M A L L - P O X .

By WILLIAM CLINCH, M.D.

L O N D O N :

Printed for A. R. and Sold by T. WARNER  
at the black Boy in Pater-Noster-Row, 1724.

17



T O

Sir *Francis Head*, Bart.

S I R,

**Y**OU will pardon the Liberty I take of Writing to you in this publick Manner, to return my Thanks for the many Civilities I have received from your Family. The Death of your Elder Brother, deprived me of the best and most sincere Friend I ever met with. As I

## DEDICATION.

had the Honour of a very long Attendance on him, in the Way of my Profession, so, I may say it, that excepting his own Family, no one had a better Opportunity of being thoroughly acquainted with him than my self; and 'tis with no small Pleasure, that I speak it, that he was a Gentleman of that sweet and even Temper, that I believe no Instance can be given of his ever having said or done an ill natur'd Thing in the whole Course of his Life.

As



## DEDICATION.

As he was happy in a plentiful Fortune, so few or none ever made a better Use of it, than himself : For, all that had any Title to his Favour or Acquaintance, were sure to be the better for him, at one Time or other : This, I may say, and am sure all that knew him, will bear Testimony to the Truth of it, that 'tis rare to meet with a Gentleman, who had fewer Faults and more good Qualities.

I know nothing, Sir, can  
compensate for this extraor-  
dinary

## D E D I C A T I O N.

dinary Loss to your Family, but the Hopes of seeing you one Day sit in the same Seat with those few of your Rank, who have done Service to our Church, by entring into Holy Orders; and happy would it be, for this Church and Nation, if we could once see a Number of Gentlemen of your Condition among the Clergy, whose Fortune and Education have set them above all Views, but that of maintaining and advancing our Holy Religion; then, and not till then, may we hope to see Virtue and Vice meet

## *D E D I C A T I O N.*

meet with their just Rewards, and the Dignity of our Church kept up and preserved in the Character of its Ministers; which is the hearty Wish of,

*S I R,*

*Your most Obedient,*

*Humble Servant,*

*Kensington Square,  
Jan. 12, 1725-41*

**William Clinch.**





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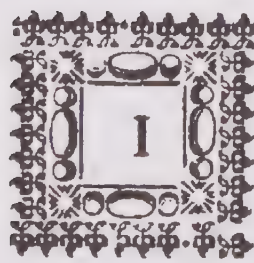


## ERRATA.

**P**AGE 8, line 15, for *and*, read *an*. Pag.  
21, line 1. for *Ægyptian*, r. *Egyptian*. Pag. 36, line 4, for *every Person*, r. *all Persons*.



A N  
Historical Essay  
ON THE  
Rise and Progress  
OF THE  
S M A L L - P O X.

T may be Matter of  
Entertainment to the  
Curious, to see the Rise  
and Progress of this  
Distemper, which of late Years  
B hath

hath been so very mortal, that there is scarce a News-Paper publish'd, which doth not furnish us with one or more Instances of its Fatality to some of the best Families in *Europe*: To settle the exact time of its Rise is a Matter of much Difficulty, but as it is without all Doubt a Disease of some Hundred Years standing, yet is it far from being of that Antiquity, which some have imagin'd. I shall therefore examine how far it was known to the Ancients, and likewise give the Opinions of some of the best of the Modern Physicians, about the Cause of its Origin in Human Bodies.

Some have carried their Notions about the Antiquity of this Distem-



Distemper so high, as to imagine it to be one of the Scripture Diseases, and think it the same with that wherewith *Job* was afflicted, which is mention'd at the seventh Verse of his second Chapter, *when he was smitten with sore Boils from the Sole of his Foot to the Crown of his Head* ; but this seems to be pure Conjecture, for in the very next Verse he is said, *to have sate down in the Ashes, and to have taken what lay next at Hand, a Potsherd or Piece of broken Pot to scrape off the Matter or Corruption which issued from his Boils.* Whereas the Matter contained in the Pustules or Boils of our Small-Pox, seldom breaks forth, but dies away into a hard Scab,

unless the Vesicles that contain it are broke by some external Violence, and in such Case, would be far from admitting so rough an Instrument to cleanse it away, as was made use of by this illustrious Patriarch.

To give any particular Denomination to the Disease of this Holy Man, may be a Matter of nice and critical Enquiry, since I know of none, either Divine, Critick, or Physician, who have done it hitherto, and most of the Commentators, when they come to this Part of his Misfortunes, speak of them in such doubtful and uncertain Terms, as leaves the curious Enquirer as much perplex'd in his Notions, as the bare Text it self could possibly do.

do, What Distemper this was, says \* one of these, is uncertain. Some think it to have been an Elephantiasis or Leprosie, but 'tis probable that it was an Evil of a much worse Nature, and such as perhaps no Man yct ever labour'd under. And as the State of Diseases stood in those Times, 'tis not very easy to conceive one of a much worse Nature, than that Species of Leprosie, which is term'd the Elephantiasis.

† Codercus, who is one of the Criticks, tells us, this was undoubtedly

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\* *Quod fuerit morbi genus incertum est. Sunt qui putent Elephantiasin aut Lepram fuisse, sed veresimile est, longe gravius malum fuisse, & quale forsitan nunquam, quisquam hominum laboravit, Mercerus in Job Cap. 2. v. 7.*

† *Critici sacri Tom. 3. pag. 2923*



doubtedly a very extraordinary Bodily Sickness, but doth not pretend to give it a Name. However, notwithstanding the Silence and Uncertainty of Criticks and Commentators on this Head, I shall venture to make one Observation from Scripture it self, which may serve to give some Light into the Nature of *Job's* Distemper; which is, that the Word which we translate Boils, *Job* 2. &c. is in the Hebrew *רָחַק* which is by *Buxtorf* interpreted, *Ulcus*, *Inflammatiō*, *Apostema*, and by *Pagninus* from *Rab. David*, such an Ulcer as arises from Heat, and is the very same Word that is us'd of the *Egyptian* Boil, and the Leprosie through all the Books  
of

of the \* *Pentateuch*; so that if I might be allow'd to guess at the Malady of this righteous Person, I should judge him to have been a Leper.

Those, who will have this Distemper known to the Ancient Greeks, have little more than a bare Word or two to support their Opinion. The *Exanthemata*, or *Exanthismata* of Hippocrates, were Risings on the Skin, of which there were many different Sorts by him describ'd, none of which had any such Resemblance to the present Small-Pox, as that it can be collected from thence, that  
this

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\* *Exod.* 9, 10, 11. *Levit.* 13, 18, 19, 20, 23. *Deuter.* 28, 27, 35.

this Ancient Physician had any Knowledge of it.

The Old *Romans* seem to have been as little acquainted with this Disease, as the Ancient *Greeks*. † *Pliny*, the Naturalist, who liv'd in the first Century, hath reckon'd up all the Diseases that were new at *Rome* in his time, but makes no mention of this; nor is the Word *Variolæ*, by which we express this Malady, to be met with in any Author, before the Eleventh Century. \* *Constantinus Africanus*, and eminent Physician and learned Linguist, who lived in that Age, is probably the First

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† Lib 26, ch. 1. & seq.

\* De *Fresne* Gloss. ad Script. Med. & Infim. latinis.



First, who ever used this Word to signify the Small-Pox. *Marius Aventicensis*, who was Bishop of *Lausanne*, and lived in the Seventh Century, hath these remarkable Words, *Hoc anno morbus validus cum profluvio ventris & variola Galliam Italiamq; valde afflixit* ; but 'tis very plain from this Passage, that the Word *Variola* was then only used to express a particular Symptom of a Disease ; but in the Twelfth Century, when the Small-Pox came to be a very common Distemper, this Word was taken up by the *European* Physicians, to signify this Disease ; the first Appearances of which had probably a very great Similitude to those Spots or Eruptions, which they had frequently observed in Malignant Fevers, and which they had

C

been

been used to express by the Word *Variola*. And, as *Pliny* hath observed of the Gout, that it was a new Disease in *Italy*, because it wanted a Latin Name, so I cannot but think it highly probable, that the Small-Pox and the Word *Variolæ*, by which it is called in the Latin Tongue, are almost Co-eval; consequently, that it could not be known in *Europe*, long before the Time, which I have fixed for the Origin of this Word.

Those Marks, or Spots in the Face, which the *Romans* called *Vari*, and from whence this Modern Word is derived, were very different from the Small-Pox, being what the Patient brought into the World with him, as plainly appears by *Tully's* Jest upon *Servilius Isauricus*,

*Isauricus*, who was marked with them, when he says to him \* *Mirror quid sit, quod pater tuus homo constantissimus, te nobis Varium reliquit*; calling him *Varium*, quod *varijs esset deformis*; for he expressly observes, that it was his Father that made him so, and not the Disease, as hath been very justly observed by the Famous *Huetius*.

It may be further remarked, that if this, or any other Word had been used by the Ancients, to signify this Distemper, there had been no Occasion to have coined a new One; since it must be acknowledged, that the *Roman* Diction could not stand in need of any modern Emendation.

C 2

Corne-

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\* *Quintilian* Lib. 6. Cap. 4 in *Isauricum*:



\* *Cornelius Celsus*, who lived in the same Age with *Pliny*, but somewhat earlier, appears likewise altogether a Stranger to it; he hath given us indeed, a whole Section on the different Sorts of Pustules, where he could not have failed to mention the Small-Pox, had he known it; but the Account he gives, is only a Transcript from the *Greeks*, and chiefly from *Hippocrates*, of whom he is known to be so great an Admirer, that one cannot read a single Page throughout his whole Works, without being put in mind of the Value and Esteem he had for this great Man. *Galen*, who flourish'd about 150 Years after *Celsus*, viz. about the

the Year 140, and of whose Writings we have a much larger Collection, than of any Physician of those Times, hath not given the least Hint from whence it can be collected, that he had any Knowledge of this Distemper, although there are some, who affirm, that he both knew it, and hath given Rules for the Method of its Cure.

Nor have any of the Greek Physicians, who lived between *Hippocrates* and *Galen*, as *Aretæus* and *Epbesius*, or those who lived after them, as *Ætius*, *Ægineta*, *Oribasius* and *Trallianus*, made the least mention of it ; and altho' Chronologists do not agree in an exact Computation of the Time, when each of these flourish'd, yet it is certain, that they all lived between  
the

the First and Fifth Centuries ; a very plain Indication, that there was no such Distemper for so many Hundred Years together. Nor is it any Argument to say, that the Name and Nature of this Distemper may be so far changed, at this Distance of Time, that it is a difficult Matter to trace it out of the Writings of these ancient Authors, since the Description they have given of most Diseases is so very just and accurate, and so little different from what they are at this present Time, that whoever will give himself the Trouble to compare their Writings with our modern Authors, will think the latter, little more than a Translation of the former.

*Sennertus* and others, who would have this Distemper some hundred  
Years

Years older, than it really is, tells us, that it was known to the *Greeks*, by the Name of *Exanthemata* ; and to the *Latins*, by that of *Pustulæ* ; but I have already observed, that the Word *Exanthemata* was used only by the *Greeks*, to signify cuticular Eruptions in general, and not one particular Distemper like our Small-Pox ; so likewise was the Word *Pustulæ* by the *Latins* ; and \* *Celsus*, who was probably one of the First, who used it, meant the very same Thing by *Pustulæ*, as *Hippocrates* did by *Exanthemata*.

Besides all this, the Method of † Practice in the Cure of their *Exanthemata* and *Pustulæ*, which was chiefly

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\* *Cor. Cel* lib 5. cap. 28.

† *Oribas* lib 3 *de morb Curat.* cap. 21. *Ægineta* lib. 1. cap 6. *Celsus* lib. 5. cap. 28.



chiefly by Purging, Bathing and Ointments, sufficiently shews how different they were from our Small-Pox. *Celsus* particularly advises Walking and Exercise ; a Practice so Repugnant to the Nature of this Distemper, that it is doing Dishonour to the very Memory of these illustrious Founders of the Art, to suppose them at all acquainted with the Disease, and to proceed so irrationally in its Cure.

Nor is it certain, or even credible, that the Small-Pox was known 'till near 500 Years after *Galen* ; altho' many, both Physicians and Historians, have imagined it to be of a much earlier Date. Monsieur † *Huet* thinks the Disease, which  
made

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† *I. id. Huetiana*

made such Havock in *France*, in the Reign of King *Childebert*, about the Year 520, mention'd \* by *Gregory de Tours* in these Words, *Cum pusulis & vesicis, quæ multum populum affecerunt morte*, cannot be understood of any Thing else but the Small-Pox ; but I see no Reason why this may not intend an Erisipilous, or any other eruptive Fever, rather than the Small-Pox ; since the Words *Pusulæ* and *Vesicæ*, will better bear such a Construction, especially, if we consider, that those were Epidemical Distempers at, and some hundred Years before that Time.

For a long Time, *Greece* was the  
 Seat of all Human Learning ; for  
 D which

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\* Lib. 6. cap. 14.

which, three Causes are commonly assigned : First, the Conquest of *Alexander the Great* ; Next, the Copiousness of the Language, together with the Love the People had to the Sciences, speculative Learning and Civility, whereof the *Greeks* were Grand Masters, accounting all other Nations Barbarians besides themselves ; Thirdly, the natural Inclination and Dexterity they had to Commerce, whereunto, they addicted themselves more than any other Nation; and which was one Reason, why, in all Places, they generally colonized the Maritime Parts ; but, in Tract of Time, as this mighty Empire declined, and *Rome* was raised out of the Ashes of *Carthage*, so, for some hundred Years,

all

all Arts and Sciences were confined to the *Roman* Empire ; and tho' the *Romans* always endeavour'd, where ever they set up their Eagle, to have introduced their Language, yet it doth not appear, that it was ever vulgarly spoken any where, but in that Part of *Italy*, called *Latium*, which is now known by the Name of *Compagna di Roma* : But when this vast Empire came to be divided, That Politeness and Literature, for which they had been as much famed, as for their Conquests, seemed wholly to leave them, and to take up its Residence, on the Sea-Coasts of *Africa*, and on the Borders of the *Red-Sea*, where the *Arabic* Tongue, which is of vast Expansion, was vulgarly spoke ;



for, besides the three *Arabia's*, it was the common Speech of *Syria*, *Mesopotamia*, *Palestine* and *Egypt*, and of all that Tract of Land which is now called *Barbary*; and as this was, at that Time, the Seat of Learning, so 'tis in the Writings of these *Arabian* Physicians and Historians, that we find the first mention of the Small-Pox. *Avicenna*, *Avenzoar* and *Rhases*, have all of them described and spoke of it, as a very familiar Disease in their Time; one of whom, *Rhases*, lived in the Beginning of the Tenth Century; but they have left us entirely in the Dark, as to the Time of its Rise: However, it is highly credible, that it had its first Beginning in the Seventh Century, among

mong the \* *Ægyptians*, from whom it was brought into *Europe*, and was probably the Offspring of some violent Pestilence, which that Country is known, so frequently, to produce, and to which this Disease hath so near a Resemblance. For, 'tis remarkable, that the same Qualities in the Air, which breed the Plague, do likewise occasion the Small-Pox, [which is constantly Rife among the *Ægyptians*, twice a Year ; and is so very Malignant at † *Grand Cairo* in the hottest of their Summer Months, which are *March*, *April* and *May*, as to be little Inferior, in its Mortality, to the Plague it self. The Cause of which, is said to be this : About the Middle of *June*, the *Nile* begin-

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\* See Friend's *Epistola de Purgantibus*, pag 96.

† Pros. Alpin. de Med. *Ægypt*, l.b 1 ch. 14.

beginning to swell, and by Degrees, to overflow its Banks, Part of its Waters, in their Course, fall into a Canal, by the Inhabitants called *Caleg*, which passes through this City, where it continues to flow till the Middle of *October*, and sometimes the Beginning of *November*, at which Time, the Waters begin to fall, and return again into their proper Channel ; so that then, the Water in the Canal of the City, being no longer kept in Motion by the Flowing of the *Nile*, stagnates, turns first green, then black, and sends forth a filthy Stench, which by the violent Heat of their first Summer Months, is so far heighten'd and increased, as to cause such a Degree of Putrefaction in the Air, as never fails to infect its Inhabitants with this and  
other

other Epidemical Distempers, to which the unwholsome Diet of the meaner Sort, such as Salt-Fish and Cheese, bad Beef, and Camels-Flesh, and above all, the Want of good Water to drink, doth greatly contribute.

Nor do they grow healthy 'till *June*, at which Time the North-winds constantly begin to blow, which are soon followed by the overflowing of the *Nile*; both which, by refreshing the parched Earth, cooling and ventilating the Air, do so far purifie and cleanse it, as to leave them in a tolerable State, 'till the Beginning of the next Summer.

\* Having



\* Having had this Occasion to speak of some of the Effects of this, so much famed River, I shall trouble the Reader with one Observation about it, of a very rare and uncommon Nature ; which is, that if any Portion of its Earth, suppose an Ounce, or more, be taken and kept close and dry from all manner of Moisture, it will be found upon repeated Tryals, to keep exactly the same Weight for many Months together, 'till the 17th Day of *June*, which is the Day on which annually, the Waters of the *Nile* begin to swell and increase, at which Time the Earth will be found augmented in its Weight ; and in Proportion as that  
is

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\* Prosp Alpin lib 1. cap 8.

is increased, they make a Judgment of the Future Inundation ; infomuch, that they are able to tell before hand, by this Experiment, exactly how many Cubits the Waters will rise, and so to provide against it accordingly. This Experiment, not being so generally taken Notice of, I could not pass it over, tho' Foreign to the Subject in Hand.

\* The Progress of the Small-Pox, for the next Four Centuries, hath been set forth, with much Accuracy and great Judgment, by the Learned Dr. *Freind* ; so that 'tis sufficient to refer the Reader to him, for a full Satisfaction, in the Affair. I shall only observe, that

E this

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\* *Freind's Epistola de Purgantibus, pag. 96.*

this was so familiar a Distemper in the Eighth Century, that there were great Numbers of People, who carried undeniable Marks of its Severity, in their Faces ; and altho', it might not then be so fatal, as in after times, yet have we an Instance, in the History of the *Saracens*, of a Chalif who died of it, about the Middle of the Eighth Century. And the Author of a Genealogical Manuscript, written in *Latin*, says, that † *Baudoin*, Earl of *Flanders*, died of the Small-Pox, and was buried in the Abbey of *St Bertin* : This is probably the same Person mention'd to have died of this Disease, about the Year 961, by *Mons. Faubet*, in his *Antiquities of France*, lib.

12.

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† See *Morrey*

12. *cb.* 14. In the Year 815, *Calif Abdala* began his Reign in *Arabia*, a Person of that laudable Disposition, that he sent Ambassadors, expressly to *Constantinople*, to get Books in all Arts and Sciences, which he caused to be translated into the *Arabic* Language, in order to excite, in his Subjects, a Desire after Learning. These Beginnings of Literature among them, were so far cultivated and improved, that in Process of Time, they came to have settled Universities among them, at *Tunis*, *Tripoli*, *Fex* and *Morocco* ; and having afterwards carried their Conquests into *Spain*, they founded a University at *Cor-duba*, which produced some of the greatest Physicians and Philosophers, that were, at that Time, in the whole World, such as



\* *Avicenna, Averrhoes, Avenzoar, Rhasis Mesue* and the Famous *Rabbi Moyfes Maimonides*, who all flourish'd much about the same Time, and mostly in the Twelfth Century. In the Writings of some of these, we find, not only this Distemper, but all Parts, both of Physick and Philosophy, very discreetly handled, which soon after, by the Death of these great Luminaries of the Age, seem'd to be extinguish'd, and all sorts of Learning to be under an Eclipse for near Three Hundred Years. For, from this Time, to the latter End of the Fifteenth, or the Beginning of the Sixteenth Century, we find but very little about this Disease ; but it then became so common in  
this

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\* See Land. de Script. med. Castell. in Vist. Medic.

this Part of the World, that there is hardly a Physician of any Note, who hath not wrote upon the Subject. *Trunconius, Minadous, Campolungus, Antonius Portus, Marcellus Donatus*, were among the chief Writers on this Distemper in *Italy*, in the Sixteenth Century. In *France*, *Paræus* and *Fernelius*, Contemporaries with the Former, have both written on it, with many others ; from which Time they became so numerous, that, I believe, there is scarcely a considerable Town, or City in *Europe*, that hath not one or more Authors to produce, who have given their Judgment upon it ; insomuch, that the Writers became almost as Epidemical as the Disease. And as the Authors on this Disease, were many, so also, were their Opinions

pinions about the Cause of it. The *Arabians*, who were the First that have given a plain and clear Description of it, finding it a Disease, which all Mankind were liable to, once at least, in the Course of their Lives ; that Children particularly, were more subject to be attack'd by it in their Infancy, and that there were Instances of some, who brought it into the \* World with them, thought the Seeds of this Distemper, were suck'd in with the Nourishment in the Womb, which being afterwards put in Motion by a Malignant Air, raised that Ferment in the Blood, which threw off those Particles, which caused the *Pustules* in the Small-Pox.

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\* Hildan. Cent 4, Observat. 55 & 56.

*Gentilis, Fernelius, Mercurialis* and others, are of a different Opinion ; and seeing many, who had arrived at the Age of Sixty or Seventy before they were attack'd by this Disease ; and many Hundreds of others, who had gone to the Grave, in an advanced Age, without ever having it at all, thought it difficult to conceive how the Seeds of a Distemper should continue latent in the Body so long a Time, especially, when they considered, that many of those very Persons, had been oftentimes assaulted with Fevers, and other similar Distempers ; which had the Seeds of the Small-Pox been in the Blood, must probably have produced that Distemper.

There



There is one Case indeed, which seems to make much for this Opinion, which is that of the Bite of a Mad Dog, where the venomous Seeds have been known to lie concealed a very considerable Time, before they have broke out upon the Patient. \* *Albertus Magnus* affirms, that he hath known this sort of Poison lie in the Body Twelve Years after the Receipt of the Injury, before it hath discovered it self; and *Alfabaravius*, an Eminent *Arabian* Physician, says, that he hath experienced it to lie Dormant Forty Years, before it produced any visible Effects; And I am very credibly informed, that 'tis not many Years since the  
Effects

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\* Lib. 7. de Animal. cap. 2.

Effects of this Poison, fatally broke out upon a Gentleman at *Bath*, above Twenty Years after he had been bit : The Case, as I remember, is this. A Gentleman came to *Bath* to drink the Waters for some Indisposition, and after drinking them a few Days, began to feel a Pain in one of his Hands near his Thumb, which growing troublesome to him, he asked his Physician about it, who prescribed what he thought proper. The Pain still continuing and increasing, the Patient, in a short Time, began to have a Disgust to all manner of Liquids; upon which his Physician asked him, if he had ever been bit by a mad Dog ; at first, he seemed a little surprized at the Question, and, upon Recollection, told him, that he had ; and that it was

in that very Part of his Hand, where he had all along felt the Pain ; but that it was above Twenty Years since. This Patient died in a very few Days after.

This is, undoubtedly, a very extraordinary Case ; and how these venomous Sparks can lie so long concealed, before they break out into a Flame, must still remain a Secret to Mankind ; for those, who have hitherto endeavoured to account for it, might have saved themselves the Trouble, for any new Lights or Advantages, which their Reasonings have afforded us ; but to return,

These Physicians having likewise observed, that the Small-Pox had no particular Times, in which it was more Rife than at others ;  
that

that it was equally liable to break forth and become Epidemical in in every Season of the Year, in cold, as well as hot Weather ; that it sometimes had large Intervals, in which for many Months, and even Years, it was hardly heard of, and then again became so very general, that few or none escaped it ; and finding it necessary to impute, so universal a Disease, to some common Cause, have deduced its Original, from a malignant Constitution of the Air, as being least liable to Objections, of any of those numerous Opinions, which have been given about it. One of these, *Mercurialis*, a Person of so great Fame and Reputation in his Profession, that he was sent for out of *Italy* to *Vienna*, to cure *Maximilian* the Second, hath advanced



an Opinion different from any of the Former. He imagins this to be an Hereditary Distemper, and that every Person, descended from Parents who have had it, have an innate Character stamped upon their Blood, whereby they are ever subject to be attack'd with it at, one Time or other. \* *Sennertus*, who lived with and many Years after *Mercurialis*, wholly rejects this Opinion, as having no Foundation, in Reason, to support it ; and asks the Question, why if it were an Hereditary Disease, it is not like them, subject to frequent Returns ; likewise, why a Person, who hath once had the Plague, may not, as well, communicate a Disposition to his Issue, of receiving that Disease,

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\* *Sennertus lib 4 cap 12.*

ease, as this. To which he answers, that when once Nature hath overcome the Malignity of the Distemper, the very Seeds of it are thereby, so far eradicated, as not to leave the least Disposition of falling into it again ; and this he thinks one Reason, why Persons are seldom seen to have the Small-Pox or Measles more than once in the Course of their Lives. These, and such as these, were the Opinions and Reasonings of the Physicians of that Time, who being most of them Men of Character, and Professors in the Universities of *Italy, France and Germany*, never failed to distinguish themselves by their particular Doctrines, in which they were sure to be maintain'd by their Pupils and Adherents, how well or ill soever they were founded. Our

Our Countryman, \* Dr. *Willis*, as he is not altogether in the same Sentiments with the foremention'd Authors, so neither doth he reject their Opinions ; but chuses rather to ascribe the Original of the Small-Pox to a Complication of Causes put together, of which he particularly Names three, *viz.* Contagion received from some infected Place ; the Disposition of the Air ; and an immoderate Disorder of the Blood and Humours. For the First of these, he appeals to daily Experience ; and farther tells us the Manner how this Disease is spread by Contagion, *viz.* That from an infected Body Effluvia continually flow, which being received

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\* Willis de Variolis & Morbillis, cap. 15.

ceived by other Bodies, do immediately corrupt and taint the Blood, and thereby stir up the latent Seeds of this Distemper ; \* but the Way and Manner of propagating a Disease by Contagion from an infected Body, hath lately been shewn with so much Judgment and Perspicuity, as makes it wholly unnecessary to insert the Opinion of this, or any other Author, on that Subject.

That this Distemper is sometimes owing to a peculiar Disposition of the Air, is not only the Opinion of Dr. *Willis*, but of all others likewise, who have treated of it ; hence, they say, it is, that

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\* See Dr. Mead's *Discourse on Pestilential Contagion*,  
 pag. 12.



it becomes so popular, and rages with so much Violence through whole Countries, Cities and Villages : Hence also it proceeds, that it is more Epidemical at some Times and Seasons, than at others ; hence again, that it is sometimes so very Mortal, and at other Times so very Mild and Favourable ; *viz.* just as it hath contracted more or less of a malignant Quality from the Air. From this Cause it is, that we often see it attended with black and purple Spots, which have so much of the Nature of the Plague it self.

That the Small-Pox, may sometimes, owe its Rise to having the Blood and Humours put into too violent a Commotion, this Author makes no manner of doubt, since  
 he

he had frequently observed Persons to fall into it, after being overheated by immoderate Exercise; or surfeited by too plentiful a Repast, when there had been no precedent Contagion, no malignant Constitution of the Air, or any one Person sick of it, for many Miles round the Country, to which it could possibly be imputed.

I might here go on and shew, that these were not only the Opinions of the Authors, from which they are cited, but of all others likewise, of any considerable Character, that have treated of this Disease : But, as I fear, I have already been too long upon this Part of my Subject, I shall return to shew the Advances that have been

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made

made by this Distemper, in another Part of the World.

About the Year 1492, or as some have it, 1497, the Grand Continent of *America* was first discover'd by the *Spaniards*; where they had not long been settled, before they \* brought this Distemper in among the Natives, which before had never been heard of in those Parts; and as it is known to be both more Infectious and more Mortal, in Hot than Cold Countries, the Historians, of those Times, inform us, that it was extremely Mortal among them; and that the Brother of *Motexuma*, King of *Mexico*, died of it: So  
that

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\* *Rodericus a Fonseca*

that about this Time, its Infection was spread through all Parts of the known World, to which the Commerce of the Levant, so aptly situated to propagate it, from its Fountain Head, did not a little contribute.

For, as Seed sown in its proper Soil, never fails to produce a plentiful Harvest, so this Disease, which is highly Inflammatory in its Nature, having got into a suitable Clime, became so very Epidemical, that, in less than a Century, it had destroyed a very great Part of the Inhabitants ; and in one Year, *viz.* \* 1590, it so spread it  
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self

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\* See a Letter of Ch. Uslano to Gonsalvo de Solana written from Potosi, 20th July, 1590.



self all along the Coast of *Pern*, that it entirely swept away all the Indians, Mullatoc's and Mestico's, in the Cities of *Potosi* and *De la Paz*, and the adjacent Countries ; insomuch, that the Mines lay neglected for a considerable Time, before any fresh Hands could be got to work them. And which is very remarkable, notwithstanding it raged with that Violence, there was not one *Spaniard* who died of it, which looked like a Sort of Sympathy in the Climate ; for altho' the Air was so highly infected, as it must necessarily be, where the Mortality was so great, yet it had no Power of communicating any strong Degree of Contagion, to any but its own Natives. But it is not to be admired, that the  
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Small-Pox should prove so Destructive to such a People, who had no Medicine, no Kind of Help but the meer Strength of Nature, to carry them through it ; and even that too, very much weaken'd and infeebl'd for want of a proper Regimen in such a critical Conjunction ; since in these Northern Parts, where we have had such long Experience, and all possible Helps for the Management of it, it sometimes shamefully Defeats all Human Assistance, to the utter Extirpation of some of the best Families in Christendom.

\* *Helbigius* asserts, that they never had any Small-Pox in the  
East-

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\* In *Bibliotheca Medico Practica*, Tom. 4 pag. 716.

*East-Indies*, 'till after the *Dutch* came and made their Settlements among them ; and that the first Sallies of this new Disease, were so Fatal, and raised such a Terror among the Natives, that it was with great Difficulty, that they were afterwards brought to admit of any Commerce with the *Europeans* in the South East Isles, for fear of having this destroying Angel brought in among them. But of late, both here and in the South West Parts of *America*, it hath been much more favourable to them, since they have been better acquainted with it, excepting at some particular Seasons, when there has been a Number of Causes, which have concurred to make it more than ordinarily Malignant :  
For,

For, tho' it be certain, that this Distemper is in it self Inflammatory, and consequently any great Degree of Heat must heighten and increase it, yet this Inconveniency is greatly qualified by a constant and liberal Perspiration, whereby great Loads of Matter are carried off, through the Pores of the Body, which would otherwise clog and interrupt the Motion of the Spirits, and so render them incapable to support the Patient in the Course of the Distemper ; and for want of this free and easy Perspiration it is, that in these Northern Countries we are forced to have Recourse to Art, to assist us in making other Evacuations, to supply the Want of it. To this it is owing, that they have little

or



or no Gout and Rheumatism in those Parts ; for, the Juices of their Bodies being constantly rarefied and refined by the natural Warmth of the Clime ; and there being such large and continual Discharges made, through the Meashes of the Skin, That Sickness of the Fluids, and Those acrimonious Salts, which Occasion these Distempers, are, in a great Measure, carried off and prevented ; tho' I make no doubt, but their Living so much upon Rice, Barly, Pulse and some Sorts of Fruit, and their Drinking of Water, and Eating little or no Flesh-meats, doth greatly contribute to their Preservation from these Diseases, as likewise to make the Small-Pox less Fatal to them, than it was heretofore.

It

It hath been a Notion frequently entertain'd, and much propagated by the Indian Writers, that the *Lues Venerea*, was first brought into *Europe* by the *Spaniards*, who owed it to a Libidinous Conversation with the *American Women*, upon the first Discovery of those Parts; and that the bringing in the Small-Pox among them, was no more than the changing of one Disease for another There is no Doubt to be made, but *Columbus's* Followers might pay dear for their Familiarities with the Female Inhabitants of this new World; but there are too strong Proofs of the Antiquity of this

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Distemper to imagine that it took its Rise from thence.

Others tell us, that it was brought from the Siege of *Naples*, in the Year 1464, in the War between *Charles* the Eighth of *France*, and *Alphonso* King *Naples*. It is very certain, that the great Liberties, which were taken between the *French* Soldiers and the *Italian* Women at that Time, spread this fashionable Poison through the best Part of the \* *French* Army ; yet I can never think, that from this *Fountain* those bitter *Waters* have flow'd into *Asia* and *Africa*, as some have affirmed, since *Salicetus* and

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\* See *Deserres Hist.* of *France*.

and *Gordonius*, who lived in the Thirteenth Century, have both wrote of it : And a late Ingenious Author tells us, that he hath a very curious Manuscript, wrote by Mr. *John Arden*, Surgeon to our *Richard* the Second and *Harry* the Fourth, wherein he hath accurately described and treated of the Cure of the Venereal Distemper. The same Person hath shewn from ancient Records, that there were a Number of common Stews kept on the Bank-side in *Southwark*, and allowed by Publick Authority, which were afterwards suppressed in the 37th of *Harry* the Eighth. These Stews were under Regulation, and had many Laws and Ordinances appointed them by the Govern-



ment, one of which was \* *That no Stew-Holder should keep any Woman that had the Perilous Infirmary of burning, which was the old English Word for a Gonorrhæa, or Clap; so that from hence it appears, this Disease was known in our own Country, long before the Siege of Naples; and we find Moses makes mention of the Flux of the Seed in Leviticus, and terms them polluted, who laboured under it, and commands that they shall be driven out from the Assembly of the Israelites.*

*Herodotus relates, that the Disease Tbelia, or Woman's Disease,*  
*was*

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\* See Becket's *Antiquity of the Venereal Disease in*  
*Metc's Abridgment of Philosophical Transactions. Pag.*  
 72.

was inflicted on the *Scythians* and their Offspring, for violating the Temple of *Venus Urania*, which was in *Ascalon*; and tho' most of the Criticks have thought this Disease called *Tbelia*, to have been the *Menses*, they were certainly in an Error, since it is very well known, that is not a Distemper that can be transplanted upon any human Issue; besides, all those Diseases which the Heathens imagined to be sent by the Deities on Mankind, as a Punishment for their Crimes, were Contagious in their Nature.

Many are of Opinion, that this  
 \* Distemper was known to *Hippocrates*

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\* *Epid. &c. 2. Prorrh. lib. 2.*

*poocrates*, and that he hath described every Sympton of it, in different Parts of his Works, tho' he hath not given any Name to it ; this is certain, that both he and *Galen* make frequent mention of the *Gonorrhœa*, which most are apt to think, was a Disease which proceeded from a Venereal Taint ; tho' 'tis hard to affirm at this Distance of Time, that it is the same with that, which now bears that Name, but of this only as it fell in my Way.

As to our History of the Small-Pox, it were needless to be more particular, since, as I have before remarked, the Writers on the Subject are so numerous, that it is in every one's Power, that  
will

will give himself a little Trouble, to see the State and Progress of it in all the Kingdoms in *Europe*, down to the present Times. I shall only observe, that as no Nation in *Europe* hath felt its Severity more than this Island, so, I may say it, with great Truth, for the Honour of the *English* Physicians, that none have been more Industrious in finding out a proper Regimen for it, or have succeeded better in its Cure. For the Truth of this Assertion, I need only appeal to the Writings of that excellent Physician of the last Age, *Dr. Sydenham*, who first taught us the proper Manner and Method of using Opiates in this Distemper, which did not only very much contribute to the Cure, but  
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likewise to the Support of the Patient under the confluent Sore, which before this Practice, was almost insupportable.

Nor have we been wanting in our Advances towards a perfect Cure, even in this present Age, so far as the Nature and Virulency of the Disease will admit of it, as is evident from those Histories, so elegantly and accurately described, and not long since publish'd by the Learned Dr. *Freind*.

To have given a particular History of the Methods, that have been used in the Cure of this Distemper, at different Times, and in different Countries, as it was not my Intention, so would it  
have

have required great Nicety of Skill and Judgment ; and I cannot but think, notwithstanding the vast Variety of Authors on the Small-Pox, that there is any Disease that stands in greater Need of a judicious and experienced Writer : And as we have long been made to hope, that a Work of this Nature, will be published by a Person, whose true Learning and Judgment, assisted with the greatest Experience in the Practice of Physick, must make him every Way capable of the Undertaking ; so I doubt not, when it comes to be published, but it will gain him, not only Honour and Applause from the whole Faculty of Physick, but likewise, for its Usefulness to Mankind,

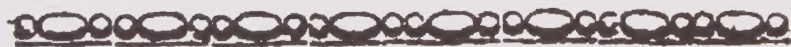
I                      kind,

kind, the Blessing of our latest Posterity.

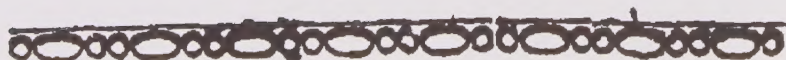
There is one Objection to the Antiquity of this Distemper, which I shall just mention, before I conclude this short Essay, which is, that we never find, in any of the Portraits of the ancient *Greeks* or *Romans*, any Person represented as marked or pitted with the Small-Pox. This, tho' the Observation of a very learned Gentleman, I cannot think an Argument of much Weight, since all know, that it is the Business of Limners to delineate and paint the Beauties, and not to set forth Blemishes or Deformities in their Paintings ; and as to the giving a Description of a Person in History,

story,

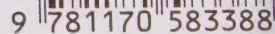
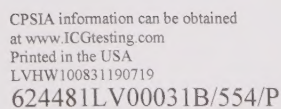
story, the Ancients generally spoke of their Cotemporaries, with Regard to their Stature and Bulk, rather than their Complexion or Features of their Face ; so that were there not much Stronger Reasons to believe the *Greeks* and *Romans* Strangers to this Disease, I should not think this of much Force for that Purpose.



*F I N I S,*









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